

Endangering Persons Using Railways A Sack Of Manure

*Three teenage boys hung a sack of manure
from a bridge. When the train hit it, it
obstructed the drivers vision and caused
distress to passengers.*

The Offence

3 teenagers hung a sack of manure from a railway bridge to see what would happen when a train went past and hit it. The manure partially obstructed the drivers vision, and caused distress to the passengers who were unaware of what the substance soiling the train was. The boys received Reparation Orders for the offence of 'endangering persons using railways'. It was agreed that the boys would assist with the cleaning of trains.

The Reparation

The trains were cleaned at night, and the boys were given a warm welcome from the cleaning team. Their supervisor insisted that they were all coworkers for the night. "This is not about punishment" he said, showing an instinctive grasp of reparation, "it is about opening their eyes...and inviting them back." The boys discovered that joining the nightshift is tough. However, they rose to the challenge and got stuck in, clearing rubbish, wiping tables, mopping floors and scrubbing the toilets of 6 trains, paying back to the train operator with cloths, brushes, mops, and their own sweat. "It has to be done" said one of the boys, all of whom agreed that reparation was the best way to make amends for their offence. The hardest thing for the boys was the impact upon their families – made worse by local newspapers falsely suggesting that bricks were thrown at the train. After the reparation, the boys hoped that they could put the offence behind them, and one said, "I'm just glad it's over".